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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/972,071	10/05/2001	Ajit Nair	100.248US01	4536
34206	7590	10/23/2003	EXAMINER	
FOGG AND ASSOCIATES, LLC			MOFIZ, APU M	
P.O. BOX 581339			ART UNIT	
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55458-1339			PAPER NUMBER	
			2175	
DATE MAILED: 10/23/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/972,071

Applicant(s)

NAIR ET AL.

Examiner

Apu M Mofiz

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DIANE D. NAZRAHI  
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bahlmann (US Patent No. 6,195,689 B1).

As to claims 1,4,7,10,12,15 and 16, Bahlmann teaches creating first and second storage portions of a provisioning database (i.e. vendors configuration data are stored in separate tables/files/storage portions; The data can be stored in thousands of storage portions/tables/files or one table/file. It really depends on the database designer; The differences in user access rights makes the distinction; The distributed databases are an age old technology; The data can be distributed over multiple databases or one database or multiple files does actually makes no difference) storing configuration information for a plurality of user access devices in the first portion (i.e. storing client, cable provisioning/ configuration data/ user access device information etc.) (Fig.2; Abstract; col 1, lines 45-67; col 2, lines 1-26); identifying the first portion for global access by any of a plurality of external servers (i.e. the provisioning data can be accessed by anyone through thru a web server and a browser, with a user level

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assigned by the administrator; it is up to the administrator to decide which user has access to which provisioning data or even every user can have access to some provisioning data and setting user access rights is an age old technology also) (Fig.2; Abstract; col 1, lines 45-67; col 2, lines 1-26); storing configuration information for a plurality of external provisioning servers in the second portion (i.e. storing various vendor's external provisioning servers data) .) (Fig.2; Abstract; col 1, lines 45-67; col 2, lines 1-26); assigning each of the plurality of external provisioning servers a unique identifier (i.e. each provisioning server's data is accessed by unique graphical interface and therefore their data has to be identified by some identifier) (Fig.2; Abstract; col 1, lines 45-67; col 2, lines 1-26); tagging the configuration information for each of the external provisioning servers with the unique identifier for that particular provisioning server (Fig.2; Abstract; col 1, lines 45-67; col 2, lines 1-26); and retrieving only the configuration information tagged with the unique identifier of an external provisioning server requesting configuration information (i.e. user can add, view, modify, delete, generate report on each vendor's provisioning servers configuration data thru an unique interface) (Fig.2; Abstract; col 1, lines 45-67; col 2, lines 1-26).

As to claims 2,3,5,6,8,9,11,13 and 14, the limitations of these claims are either taught or suggested in the rejected claims above.

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***Points of Contact***

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Apu M. Mofiz whose telephone number is (703) 605-4240. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached at (703) 3053830. The fax numbers for the group is (703) 746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Apu M. Mofiz  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2175

August 15,2003

DIANE D. MIZRAHI  
PRIMARY REVIEW EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER